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WRONG CONSTRUCTION INVITES TERMITE TROUBLE

If a new home is built so that the wood can be reached by termites from the ground, termite damage often shows up when the house is from 5 to 20 years old. Many builders and owners still do not realize that the only sure way to keep termites out is to build them out and that proper construction of the house in the first place is a cheap and certain insurance against these destructive insects.

From long research entomologists have learned exactly how buildings may be termite-proofed. Mechanical blocking, filling up cracks, cutting off wood from the ground by metal shields or solid cement are ways to build against termites.

If these insects are already in the house, simple inexpensive repairs can often be made that will cut them off from the ground and cause them to die. But if termite-proofing necessitates a large rebuilding job which seems too expensive, the insects may be controlled temporarily by poisoning the ground under the house where they have their nests. Effective poisons are orthodichlorobenzene or a mixture of kerosene and coal-tar creosote. A thorough application of such poisons should remain effective for 4 or 5 years.

Further information on building out termites may be obtained by writing the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Leaflet No. 101, "Injury to Buildings by Termites," and Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine Brief E-338.

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